GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5657
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2003
PROJECTING INDIAN STAND ABROAD
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government are aware that our Embassies abroad are not equipped adequately to project our stand on various issues, such as our foreign policy, Kashmir issue, stand on terrorism and nuclear disarmament;

(b) if so, the steps being contemplated by the Government to project our stand effectively; and

(c) if so, the details of the expenses involved?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a),(b)&(c) It has been the consistent endeavour of the Ministry of External Affairs to adequately equip all Indian missions abroad with up-to-date information and publicity materials so that they can project a positive image of the country effectively highlighting our stand on various issues of importance to the international community. The missions, in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs, work to well-defined action plans that encompass, inter-alia, close contacts with opinion-makers, dissemination of materials and information, maintenance of websites, talks and seminars, press briefings and so on. Adequate budget for publicity are provided to the missions.